

**PROGRAM POLICY COORDINATION WORKGROUP
MINUTES
October 9, 2003
GEF III, Room 041**

Attendees:

Jonathan Bader, WISCAP
Monica Danley, Milwaukee Co DHS
Sara Edmonds, DHFS/BHCE
Jim Hennen, DHFS/SE Region
Jon Janowski, MHTF
Donna King, DHCF/PIC

Mike McKenzie, DHCF/BHCE
Michelle Pauser, DHFS
Sara Shackleton, Dane County DHS
Sheryl Siegl, Winnebago Co. DHS
Jayne Wanless, DHCF/BHCE

State Option FS for Legal Immigrants/SSI Cap Project

Sara Edmonds

Jonathan Bader inquired about the changes made to eligibility for immigrant households. Sara updated the group on the changes effective 10/1/03 which makes more individuals eligible for federal food stamps rather than the State Option FS they were receiving. CARES identifies these individuals now through an extract file used by the State. This will reduce the state's cost for the SOFSP.

There were also questions regarding the SSI Cap Project. Sara clarified that SSI recipients who apply for FS at the SSA office are not required to have an additional face-to-face appointment with local agencies. The information gathered at the SSA office counts as this requirement. Usually most agencies would just have to request shelter information to process these applications. The Social Security Administration ordered many of these applications though very few are being received by local agencies. The SSI CAP project would centralize the FS eligibility determination for one and possibly two person SSI recipient households. We are waiting for further instruction from FNS as to how we will proceed with this project.

Reduced Reporting Phase II

Sara Edmonds

Phase II will be implemented on 2/28/04. Currently, we are looking over other state's versions of the semi-annual interim report form in order to design ours. There may be a draft available soon and Sara will bring the draft to next month's meeting for review. A reminder letter to alert customers to expect the interim report form and to save their check stubs will go out prior to the report month. The group would like to see a copy of the reminder letter also. A soft copy of handout/update for Phase II is attached.

Phase VIII Reinvestment Plan for FFY02 Liability

Mike McKenzie

Mike took the group through the proposed reinvestment plan for the sanction liability incurred for FFY02. The plan has not yet been approved by FNS. We received feedback from many sources, but decided to direct the bulk of the funding to Milwaukee County. The plan includes:

Milwaukee Initiatives

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • Payment Accuracy Manager for Milwaukee County | \$109,288 |
| • Upgrade to the phone system | \$232,500 |
| • Service delivery model improvements | \$897,512 |
| • Milwaukee staff development and training | \$ 25,000 |

Statewide Initiatives

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • Continuation of the Program Improvement Consultant
(for an additional 16 months) | \$131,750 |
| • Continuation of Payment Accuracy Consultants
(through September of 2004) | \$147,000 |
| • State FS Program Payment Accuracy Manager | \$200,000 |

A soft copy of the proposed plan is attached.

Transitional Food Stamps

Jayne Wanless

Jayne updated the group on the progress being made on implementation of Transitional Food Stamps. This FS benefit would be given to all families leaving cash payment of W2. CARES will automatically subtract the W2 payment from the food stamp budget and "freezes" the FS allotment for 5 months based on that budget. Some points to mention from Jayne's update:

- Recipients can always request "regular" food stamps and eligibility workers will be able to choose whichever amount would benefit the customer
- Sanctions will be carried over into transitional food stamps. If one person was sanctioned at the start of transitional food stamps, they would remain that way.
- If W-2 reopens, they can remain on transitional food stamps.
- There is no limit as to the number of times a group can receive transitional.
- Implementation set for March of 2004.

A soft copy of the proposed notices is attached.

Roll-up of MA Notices

Evie Ryan-Tondryk

Evie Ryan-Tondryk from DHFS gave a presentation on the roll-up of Medicaid notices. Suggestions were given to Evie as to other advocacy groups that may have some input on these notices and the new design. The group did agree that these new notices are much improved over the present version. Evie gave the group some handouts and asked for feedback from the larger group. You should have received a separate email with these handouts attached.

Program Participation Grant

Mike McKenzie

Wisconsin has been awarded a \$1.7 million grant to improve access to the FS program. The Program Coordination Subcommittee has agreed to serve as the advisory group for this project. The timeline for development and implementation is approximately two years. We will add representatives from WIC, TEFAP, and CWAG for the duration of the initiative. The subcommittee will receive monthly updates from the Project Director, which the state is in the process of recruiting, along with two additional positions: Systems Analyst, and Program Policy Evaluation Analyst. The positions have not yet been posted.

Next Meeting - Thursday, November 13, 2003 in GEF III, Rm. 349 from 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.